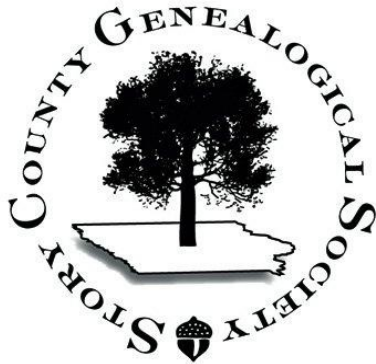


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# SCGS NEWS

Jan. 2012 Vol. 45, no. 1

Story County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

email: [storygenes@gmail.com](mailto:storygenes@gmail.com) web: [www.storygenes.com](http://www.storygenes.com)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/storygenes](https://www.facebook.com/storygenes)

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*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

Jan. 9 SCGS Program

## **"Visiting the Land of Our Ancestors: Germany and The Netherlands"**

**In September, SCGS members Gwenna Jacobson and Mary Lohr joined a group from the Ostfriesen Heritage Society from Grundy County, Iowa and traveled to Germany and The Netherlands. At the January 9 meeting, they will share their experiences. This program will be Monday, Jan. 9, 2012 in the Farwell Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., Ames, Iowa at 7 p.m.**

Gwenna and her sister Larinda visited the Ostfriesen area of Germany and The Netherlands. Mary and her husband Jim traveled to other parts to visit ancestral villages. Come and share their genealogy travel experiences, how they prepared, what they learned, suggestions for others contemplating a trip, and an amazing discovery made days after they returned home. *(Hint: you never know what wisdom the local villagers may have.)*

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## ***SCGS News Needs an Editor!***

After serving as editor of SCGS News for five years, Martha Rasmussen is assuming the office of vice-president of the Story County Genealogical Society. As editor, Martha never missed an issue in all that time ... forty issues in all! That's an impressive record. Even more impressive is the quality and contents of the issues published under Martha's time as editor. AND, all the articles were original content written by Martha and other SCGS members.

In the interim, I've compiled this issue, but we need a volunteer to edit the February issue. Can you help? Some basic computer skills are required, as well as a commitment to distribute the newsletter about a week before our meetings. A basic word-processing software package is helpful. (There are several free ones available for download.)

The newsletter is something our members anticipate receiving and provides a link with members not in the immediate area of Story County.

If you would like to help "spread the word" about SCGS, please consider helping us!

## Message from SCGS president Mary Lohr

Happy New Year! May you find lots of information on your family in 2012, especially that one piece of evidence that has eluded you for all too long. Remember, persistence pays!

We're off to a great start in 2012 and want to help and connect with our members. We attempt to do that through this newsletter, SCGS News, on Facebook.com/storygenes, our website ([www.storygenes.com](http://www.storygenes.com)), and at our monthly meetings.

How else can we help you? Would you like some help sessions prior to our regular meetings? Is there a website you would like explained more fully, such as Gwenna Jacobson did with FamilySearch.org. The 1940 census is scheduled for release in three months (April 2012). How do you plan to prepare for that?

Is there a specific ethnic group you would like to study more deeply? In the past we've had speakers on Quakers, Germans, Irish, Ostfriesen, Norwegian, and Danish.

Are you comfortable with online Internet research? What about the new social media-- is it a helpful genealogy friend or intimidating foe? Maybe this is an area we can explore together.

Finally, we'd like your genealogy stories: what have you done that has worked well for you? Do you have an interesting item, photo, or serendipitous moment you will share with us? What was it that first generated your interest in family history?

Please give Marti Rasmussen, SCGS vice-president, your ideas for programs. If you want to write a description about your genealogy experiences for consideration in SCGS, contact one of the officers.

Thanks to all of you for making genealogy fun and challenging through SCGS!

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**Reminder: 2012 membership renewals are now due. Please renew by Feb. 28 to ensure receiving the newsletter.** Dues help fund SCGS, purchase books for the Ames Public Library, and provide speakers and education programs. Please use the form at the bottom of p. 4. Thank you!

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## A Lesson Learned

Saved by the bell backup! With no warning, my computer recently crashed! Fortunately, all my data was backed up, so nothing of value (with the exception of my time) was lost. It was only a few months previously that I had started to do regular backups and it paid off--big time. The software had to be reinstalled, but this was a minor inconvenience compared to the peace of mind knowing all my genealogy data had not been lost.

There are several options available: commercial services include Mozy and Carbonite; Dropbox offers some free storage; an external hard drive or other removable media such as CDs or DVDs. Having a backup in place could be a sanity saver.



### **Saving Some \$\$\$ on Genealogy Research**

If your resolutions for 2012 include saving some green on tracing your ancestors, these ideas may be of interest:

- Request a non-certified copy of vital records. These contain the same information as a certified copy, but will lack the seal or endorsement of the issuing body and are not valid for legal purposes. Usually the cost for a non-certified copy is much less.
- Use your public library! The Ames Public Library has Ancestry.com library version and there is no cost to access it. The following recently published books are also available for borrowing: Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) by W. Daniel Quillen (Cold Spring Press, c2011) 929.1 QUI 2011; The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by Kimberly Powell (F+W Media, c. 2011) 929.1 POW 2011; Mastering Immigration & Naturalization Records by W. Daniel Quillen (Cold Spring Press, c2011) 929.1 QUI 2011 Genealogy Online (9<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Elizabeth Powell Crowe (McGraw Hill, c2010) 929.1 CRO 2010
- HeritageQuest (census records and a lot more) is available at the Library as well as at home via the Internet. In addition, there are numerous genealogy reference books and periodicals. "Check it out."
- Use the FamilySearch.org website – tutorials, wiki, scanned images, indexed records and more.
- Sharpen your Google search techniques to mine the data that is available on the Internet. Also try other search engines like Mocavo.com, GenealogyInTme.com, Cyndislist.com. Yahoo.com, and Yippy.com. And remember the two very good classics: RootsWeb.com and USGenWeb.org.
- Keep a wanted list of books and supplies you would like to use = instant gift suggestions for birthday, anniversaries, Christmas, special occasions.
- Attend your local genealogy society meetings to learn, collaborate, and get help from other members. (OK, shameless plug for the Story County Genealogical Society, but we have some very experienced and helpful researchers. ASK US!)

### **SCGS November 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The November 2011 Meeting, held November 10, was called to order by President Mary Lohr at the Ames Public Library. There were 17 members and 1 guest present.

The minutes of the October meeting were amended to have Martha Deyoe on the slate of candidates as Historian instead of Arthur Dale.

The Petersons, Linda Wright, and Katie Pattee agreed to be on the Audit Committee and meet and do the audit.

Pat Cain gave the treasurer's report.

Correspondence: We received a thank you note from the Library.

Announcements: A copy of the IGS newsletter was available for people to read. IGS is planning an event *Somewhere in Time Bridal Gown Show* of vintage bridal gowns. (continued on p. 4)

An email from Taco Goulooze in The Netherlands was read that offered to help anyone researching their Dutch ancestry.

Mary Ausborn spoke about the Boy Scout genealogy class where Boy Scouts could earn merit badges in genealogy. Several members volunteered to help Troy Kilzer with the class.

Old business: There was a discussion where to have meetings when the Ames Public Library was under construction. Suggestions included the Bertha Barlett Library in Story City and the Octagon.

Mary Lohr obtained the domain name [www.storygenes.com](http://www.storygenes.com) to host the SCGS website.

Lucille Wahrenbrock gave the library report. We now have the last volume #7 of *The Great Migration* from NEHGS and it includes an index of all names.

New business: Pat Cain asked we approve the payment to Lucille for the books for the library. Merlene Whisenand moved and Linda Wright seconded. Motion approved.

Gretchen Triplett presented the slate of officers for the election: Mary Lohr, president; Marti Rasmussen, vice-president; Gwenna Jacobson, secretary; Pat Cain, treasurer; Lucille Wahrenbrock, librarian, Martha Deyoe, historian. Gretchen Triplett agree to do the newsletter on a trial basis. Mary Ausborn moved to approve the slate and it was seconded and the slate was approved by members. Volunteers are needed on December 3 to staff the IGS Library. All volunteers meet at 9:15 a.m. to drive to the library. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

After the meeting there was time for members to share pedigree charts or other compiled data and visit with everyone. Members brought goodies to share.

Charlotte Peterson brought a quilt she made, that had her family tree, to share.

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SCGS Newsletter  
P.O. Box 692  
Ames, Iowa 50010

NEXT ISSUE: Feb 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements: Jan. 23, 2012  
Newsletter Editor  
email: [storygenes@gmail.com](mailto:storygenes@gmail.com)

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## Story County Genealogical Society

Send Membership dues to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010  
or pay Treasurer at SCGS meeting.

Membership is \$10 per person \_\_\_\_ OR \$15 per family per year \_\_\_\_

Member of the Iowa Genealogical Society \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Visit SCGS online at <<http://www.storygenes.com>>

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# SCGS NEWS

*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

FEBRUARY 2012

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VOL. 45 ISSUE 2

NEXT PROGRAM: MON., FEB 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 7PM  
FARWELL BROWN AUDITORIUM  
AT AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 1940 Census Discoveries for All

By Marti Rasmussen

Our Story County Genealogical Society is meeting on Monday, February 13 at the Ames Public Library. I along with Annette Anderegg, of the Ames Family History Center, will lead a discussion about the upcoming 1940 Census. We are hoping for a useful and interesting evening. Please share with us any topics or particular aspects of using this Census that you wish us to cover using email [mart515@yahoo.com](mailto:mart515@yahoo.com).

Annette and I are really studying the ways and means to use this Census to offer you some information about using it. The format will be a short presentation first by our two discussion leaders. Then we will divide into two discussion groups. Annette will lead one group and I the other for a 20-30 minute discussion. We will again meet as one group to share our discoveries and queries.

Sources I am using are the U.S. Government Census Bureau or FamilySearch.org web pages. I searched for "1940s Census". From what I've learned so far, I am among the 10 million additional citizens born between 1930 and 1940. So are many of you. I am anxious to learn more about my relatives that I met briefly during my childhood, heard about, or are completely unknown to me.

- ❖ **First:** Be sure to list for yourself all the people you know where they lived in 1940, and start with where they lived in 1930.

- ❖ **Second:** If you have a list, you can systematically look them up in the 1930 Census. Note especially the Enumeration District Number at the top of the Census page. The Ames Public Library has the Heritage Quest Program And Ancestry.com that can be used by all who have a library card. This will allow even those without a personal computer to search the 1930 census.

So gather what you know, make a list of people you want to know about, and check where they lived in 1930. The Iowa population in 1940 was 2,538,268. I didn't live here then, and neither did many of you.

- ❖ **Third:** List your questions that you want to answer in the 1940 census and check to see what other sources you could use. Keep questions in the discussion general enough to benefit us all. We can't do individual research in this meeting, but will try to provide a general preparation for the Upcoming 1940 Census release in April.

I hope to see you all on February 12.

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# Making the Most of Ancestry.com

via the Ames Public Library



Photo courtesy Farwell T.  
Brown photo archive

As reported in  
the September  
SCGS  
newsletter  
Ancestry.com  
Library Edition  
(ALE) is now  
available for  
public use in  
the library

computers department. For those of you hoping to make the most of this valuable resource, here are a few tips:

☞ Computers can be complicated and frustrating for even the most experienced users. Take precautions to avoid a frustrating first experience with the sometimes capricious machines. When in doubt, bring a friend or request the assistance of library personnel. If you know what a mouse is, you are ready to learn!

🕒 One of your biggest rewards will be time. ALE makes data available within a few minutes that may have otherwise taken several hours to locate, order, and review the use of a microfiche or microfilm machine. Though certain few databases are not offered through the library version, census, birth, marriage, death, military, immigration and travel, and other collections are readily available. For a complete listing, click on the “Search” tab and spend a few moments reading the *Special Collections* box on the right hand side of the page. You may also choose to click on the “View all in Card Catalog” button to select specific criteria by which to narrow down the choices available.

☞ The “Learning Center” tab on the “Home” page is the best place to begin.

From the Ancestry.com website:

“The new Learning Center is home to four categories:

## “What’s New

Here you’ll find helpful articles relating to recently added collections on Ancestry.com and tips on how to use the newest tools and technology.

## “First Steps

If you’re new to family history, we’re here to help you get started. From home sources and interview questions to online searching and family history trees – we’ve got it covered.

## “Next Steps

If it’s records you’re looking for, you’ve come to the right place. Since Ancestry.com launched in 1996, we’ve added more than 7 billion records to the site. We’ll teach you how to find the records you need to fill in your family story.

## “Family History 101

New discoveries are always just around the corner when you research your family history, and as you learn more about the records your ancestors left behind and their place in history, your story emerges. Our family history community and the family historians on our staff love sharing their experience, and we would love to hear your stories, too. Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and our blogs, and watch helpful videos via our Livestream and YouTube channels. And our weekly and monthly newsletters deliver tips and tricks directly to your [email] inbox.”

The Learning Center also offers free webinars on topics such as “Getting Started on Ancestry.com” and “Tips for Successful Searches”.

Ancestry.com has proved to be a tremendous resource for thousands of families across the globe and can now offer you untold treasures as you utilize it in your search for ancestors at the Ames Public Library. Send your success stories for publication in the SCGS news to [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com).



SCGS News

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## WWII Veterans Database on Ames Historical Society website

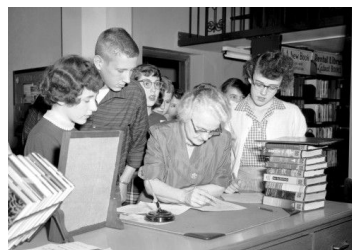
The following information and picture is courtesy of the Ames Historical Society website and is available in full detail at:

<http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/vets/explanation.htm>

Veterans Day, November 2011, the Ames Historical Society, supported by a grant from the Historical Research Development Program from the State Historical Society of Iowa released the results of a momentous project to convert manual WWII records into digital format. Requiring nearly 650 hours of work over a two year time span, the Historical Society produced a searchable database of nearly 5,300 Story County individuals "either enlisted or were drafted into service" in The Great War.

The project capitalized upon the efforts of Ames Public Library Director (1929-1963) Letha M. Davidson. Under her direction in the 1940s, library staff and local volunteers documented vital information about local soldiers onto 3x5 cards, scrapbooks of newspaper articles and pictures, and

wooden albums. These sources often contained name, hometown, relatives, places of training, branch of service, assignments, awards, transfers, leaves, news of injuries, deaths, etc.; a veritable treasure trove for descendants looking to know more about their sacrifice.



*Ms. Davidson and Volunteers*

Prior to the Ames Historical Societies project, these resources were only available at the Ames Public Library. Now, after they have been digitized, interested person's can search a local soldier's name and find all these databases have to offer.

A similar obituary collection project is underway Ames Historical Society's headquarters. Volunteers and staff are working hard to prepare newspaper clippings to be scanned and available in a searchable electronic format

For more information, contact the Ames Historical Society, or to search the database, visit <http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/>.



Logo design by  
Karen Pattee David

### *Story County Genealogical Society*

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or pay Treasurer, Pat Cain, at a SCGS meeting.  
Make Checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society.

Membership is \_\_\$10 per person OR \_\_ \$15 per family each year  
dues paid after April 1 will be for balance of 2012.

MEMBER OF IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \_\_Yes \_\_No

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AMES, IA 50010



# Meeting Minutes

January 2012

The January 2012 Meeting, held January 9th, was called to order by President Mary Lohr at the Ames Public Library. There were 25 members and 7 guest were present. Guests were introduced.

An announcement was made about Gretchen Triplett being in an accident and currently being at Bethany Manor. Gretchen cannot currently be the Newsletter Editor so If anyone is interested in the job of Newsletter Editor please talk to Mary Lohr.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved. Pat Cain gave the treasurer's report. He corrected the April report. The Audit Committee, Charlotte Peterson, Linda Wright and Katie Patee, will meet with Pat Cain and do an audit and present a report at the next meeting.

Lucille Wahrenbrock gave a Library report. She said she has \$150 to spend on books and is looking for suggestions for books to purchase.

Marti Rasmussen gave us a preview of upcoming programs:

- ❖ In February we will break up in discussion group to talk about the 1940 census which will be released in April. IGS is working with FamilySearch to help index this census for Iowa.
- ❖ In March, Lorrie Pellack will give a presentation about Genealogy Resources available at the ISU Library. Lorrie Pellack is an Associate Professor and Head of the Science & Technology Department in the Parks Library.
- ❖ In April we will have to meet at an alternate location (maybe the City Hall). Depending on the location we might have a discussion about the show *Who do you think you are?* and *Finding your roots* on PBS.

The program was about visiting Germany and the Netherlands presented by Mary Lohr and Gwenna Jacobson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dues are Due.

The weather cancellation policy is that when Ames schools are cancelled we will not meet.

The Ames Public Library is hosting monthly Civil War Programs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

The Meeting Place for meetings will need to be moved starting in April.

IGS is part of indexing Iowa for the 1940's census and is looking for volunteers.

## Story County Genealogical Society

February 2012 ♡ VOL. 45 ISSUE 2

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Samara Thornock  
P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue March 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, February 20, 2012**

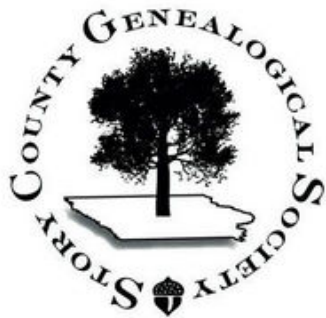
### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium unless otherwise stated*

**February 13** "1940s Census Released"  
Discussion Leaders: Marti Rasmussen  
and Annette Anderegg

**March 12** "Unearthing Genealogical  
Gems in the ISU Library"  
Speaker: Lorraine Pellack, Head,  
Science & Technology Dept.  
Parks Library, ISU





# SCGS NEWS

*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

MARCH 2012

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VOL. 45 ISSUE 3

**NEXT PROGRAM: MON., MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 7PM  
FARWELL BROWN AUDITORIUM  
AT AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Unearthing Genealogical Gems at the ISU Library

By Lorraine Pellack



*Photo courtesy  
of ISU*

*Lorraine Pellack has served as Head of the Science and Technology Department of the Robert and Ellen Parks Library at ISU since 1998. Her expertise extends to improving usability of specialized research tools which has included locating many elusive references and documents. She will be presenting the March SCGS program.*

At the March 12 SCGS meeting, I will be talking about research resources at the Iowa State University Library that might be useful to genealogists. This includes a genealogy research guide that we have on our website and some little known pieces of information about our collections and services. I will also briefly mention some recently-released databases and websites that would be extremely useful for digging up family history information - a couple of which are only available on-site. The ISU Library is open to the public, and all collections (print and electronic) may be freely used on-site. You do not need to be affiliated with the university to use our collections and services!

A year or so ago, we revamped and updated our genealogy guide. It seems to get quite a bit of use, in part, because it can save people a trip to the library to see what we do/don't have available before they come to campus. As part of updating the guide, I took a closer look at the genealogy resources in our collection and purchased some newer

books. Mary Lohr provided me with a wonderful introduction to genealogy resources available at the Ames Public Library (and good websites) and also gave me a few ideas of books we might want to purchase for the ISU Library collection. We do not want to duplicate what the Ames Public Library has available, but we do want to continue to grow our collection of Iowa history materials and possibly expand it a little to include more historical materials related to other Midwestern states and migration route states.

Toward the end of the presentation, I will be asking for your input on what the ISU Library can provide that would help your research efforts. So, tell me - what things do you like/dislike about the resources of the ISU Library? Feel free to bring a laundry list!! What questions do you have about our collections or services? Questions/comments are welcome at the meeting or via email. If you want me to cover a specific question or topic in my presentation just drop me a line in advance. My email address is [pellack@iastate.edu](mailto:pellack@iastate.edu) and our guide is available at: <http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/genealogy>

And last, but certainly not least - are any of you researching the Farr family of Mahaska County? If so, we need to chat!

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# Finding the Code: Enumeration District Numbers for the 1940 US Census

By Annette Anderegg

When the 1940 US Census is released in April a name index will not be available. Determining the census enumeration district number (hereafter ED) for a location is the key to finding specific information among the approximately 3,800,000 images that will comprise the 1940 census.

Utilities described on the Steve Morse One-Step web site make finding a 1940 ED a relatively easy task. A general tutorial for the process is found at <http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php>.

The Steve Morse One-Step web site provides a conversion tool that helps the user determine the 1940 ED if the ED from the 1930 census is known. This tool is helpful only if the family did not move during the decade. Begin by developing a list of known 1930 ED numbers. Then go to <http://stevemorse.org/census/ed2040.php?year=1940> and follow the instructions.

The Steve Morse site also provides step-by-step (a few more than one!) instructions to determine a 1940 census ED in cases where the 1930 ED is unknown or not helpful due to family mobility. To use this tool the address of an individual or family is needed. Go to <http://stevemorse.org/census/index.html> if searching in a large city or urban area. EDs for rural areas or small towns (less than 50,000 population in 1940) can be determined by accessing <http://stevemorse.org/ed/ed.php?year=1940> and selecting location from the drop-down boxes.

With a list of 1940 census EDs recorded, you will be ready to join the search on April 2nd!



Image courtesy of thecampingjournal.com

## Everyone Has a Story to Tell

### Personal Histories: Part 1/3

By Samara Thornock

Be it patches or postcards, scratches or scars, smiles, laughs, or sobbing cries there are only a few things we may take with us or leave for others to observe of the places we've seen, the people we've met, or the lives we've influenced. Though, none of these goods may be as important as the personal account of the experience itself.

A personal narrative of a whole life's history can be a daunting task, but the benefit of such a record can be immense. With or without direct posterity to share it with, information about the origins of countless players in the shaping of world culture has been sought after their lives have been lived.

Choosing to record ones life story allows the writer time for reflection and accuracy, and the potential reader time for growth. The words loved ones may not consider precious now may become clearer and more welcome later in life.

Consider the opportunity to start your personal narrative an important part of your family history goals, and start yours today!



# An Index is a Wonderful Thing!

by Annette Anderegg

One of the genealogical researcher's favorite features is a record index. Being able to turn, physically or digitally, to a specific record can alleviate countless hours of searching and significant eyestrain.

For approximately six years, volunteers have been engaged in creating indexes to a vast amount of microfilmed records under the FamilySearch Indexing program. If you haven't done so lately, take a moment to scan through the list of indexed records available to the public at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

In anticipation of the release of the 1940 census via digital images with no accompanying index, Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, and findmypast.com are collaborating to provide a name index for the 1940 census. Volunteers are being sought to participate in this effort.

Individuals can participate through a society or sign up separately. Check out this web site: <https://www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing> for a general overview, take a quick indexing "test drive" to see what is involved, and/or register to be a volunteer.

The web site, <https://www.familysearch.org/1940census> offers a place to register as an indexer with the option to indicate a state of interest. This site also contains helpful general information about the census and some articles and online courses about using censuses as a research tool.

Indexing is a perfect volunteer opportunity for anyone with access to a computer and the Internet. After initial download of a batch, work can even be completed off-line, then uploaded to the indexing server. It doesn't require a daily or lengthy time commitment or even a set schedule. It allows each volunteer to set their own pace to do as much as they can, as often as they can, whenever they can. A variety of record sets are currently being indexed. You don't have to wait for the 1940 census. Limber up those keyboarding fingers and record reading skills. Consider being an indexer!



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Karen Pattee David

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SCGS News

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P.O. Box 692  
AMES, IA 50010

# Meeting Minutes

February 2012

Submitted by Gwenna Jacobson

The February 2012 Meeting, held February 13th, was called to order by President Mary Lohr at the Ames Public Library. There were 19 members and 3 guests present. Guests were introduced.

New Member Samara Thornock was introduced. Samara Thornock will be our new Newsletter Editor.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. Pat Cain gave the treasurer's report.

Katie Patee reported the findings of the Audit Committee. A discussion followed about this year's expenses exceeding this year's income and whether adjustments might be needed in income or whether this was a onetime occurrence.

Announcements about the upcoming programs at IGS were made. Classes include Beginning Classes and Cemetery and Church Records Classes. The IGS conference is on April 14 and is about photography. IGS is looking for volunteers to help index the 1940 Census for the state of Iowa.

An announcement was made about the possibility of the SS Death Index being made unavailable in the future. Contact your representatives to express your concerns.

Members asked about if the membership list would be made available to members. Anyone can get a copy of the list by contacting Pat Cain.

Marti Rasmussen said the program next month would be at City Hall at 7pm (not at Ames Public Library) with Lorrie Pellack who is Head of the Science & Technology Dept. at the ISU Parks Library. She will present the program "Unearthing Genealogical Gems at the ISU Parks Library" and talk about the 1940 census. The April program will be about the TV programs Who do you think you are? on ABC and Finding Your Roots on PBS. Please try to watch some of these shows before then.

A discussion was had about the place of meeting next year since the Library will be under construction. The suggestion of the Story City Bertha

Bartlett Library was made. A discussion was also held about whether we should again offer help sessions this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

The presentation was by Marti Rasmussen and Annette Anderegg, from the Ames LDS Family History Center, who spoke about how to find your ancestors in the 1940 Census. The census will be released on April 2nd.

## Story County Genealogical Society

March 2012 ♡ VOL. 45 ISSUE 3

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Samara Thornock  
P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue April 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, March 26, 2012**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium unless otherwise stated*

**March 12** "Unearthing Genealogical Gems in the ISU Library"  
Speaker: Lorraine Pellack, Head, Science & Technology Dept. Parks Library, ISU

**April 9** Discussion of Who Do You Think You are and Discovering Your Roots  
**Location Change: Room 135 of City Hall**



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# SCGS NEWS

*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

APRIL 2012

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VOL. 45 ISSUE 4

NEXT PROGRAM: MON., APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7PM

~ LOCATION CHANGE ~

AT AMES CITY HALL, ROOM 135

## TV Programs Up for Examination

By Marti Rasmussen

The April 9 Meeting of SCGS, held at Ames City Hall, is a full discussion of two television programs in which celebrities trace their family history. The two programs are: *Who Do You Think You Are* on NBC (Channel 13 in our area), Fridays at 7pm, and *Finding your Roots* on PBS (IPTV in Central Iowa) Sunday nights at 7pm. The programs have been very good so far. But what do you think? Come and let us know.

*Who Do You Think You Are* is scheduled in its 3<sup>rd</sup> season. During each episode, a celebrity is taken on a surprising and deeply emotional quest into his or her family history, resulting in a compelling reality format.

*Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates Jr., a Harvard historian, is also researching the roots of his guests. Each program follows the progress of two guests with interesting but similar professions.

Past episodes of both programs can be viewed on your computer. *Who Do You Think You Are* is available at [www.nbc.com/who\\_do\\_you\\_think\\_you\\_are](http://www.nbc.com/who_do_you_think_you_are). *Finding Your Roots* can be found at [www.iptv.org](http://www.iptv.org). Check your TV listings for upcoming broadcast times and schedule of celebrity appearances.

## Local Newspaper coverage at the ISU Parks Library

By Lorraine Pellack

*Head, Science & Technology Department  
ISU Parks Library*

The **Ames Tribune** has changed names several times over the years and we have a few small gaps in what we have available in our collection. The following are all available on microfilm in the Media Center:

**Ames Intelligencer:** 1877-1885, 1890-1908

**Ames Weekly Tribune:** 1914-1916

**Ames Tri-Weekly Tribune:** 1918-1919

**Ames Tribune:** 1919-present day

The **Ames Tribune** is NOT available full-text online in any of our databases.

**Iowa State Daily** is available from 1890-present in microfilm in the Media Center. It is also available full-text online in Access World News from June 15, 1995 to the present.

The Parks Library also has indexes to:

**Ames Tribune** (1955-1986),

**Des Moines Register** (1955 to the present)

**Iowa State Daily** (1955 to the present)

Some of these are old card indexes which have not yet been converted to an online format while some newer years are available online. Ask at the Help & Information Desk for information on their location and help in using these indexes.

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# History on the Move

A Message from Mary J. Lohr,  
President Story County Genealogical Society

Pictured here is a flyer containing information about a traveling exhibit, "History on the Move: The Fiery Trial, Iowa and the Civil War".

The Story County Genealogical Society is one of the co-sponsors. We've been invited to serve as volunteers to help during the display. The exhibit is intended to be self-guided but the Ames Public Library would like to have someone on hand to welcome visitors.

If you can donate a couple hours of time that would be greatly appreciated. You may even learn something about your own ancestry!

There is a bit more information at the site:  
<http://www.iowahistory.org/education/history-on-the-move.html>

If this is something you can help with or questions, please contact Mary Logsdon at the Ames Public Library with the time you will be available. They would like volunteers to "work" a two hour shift if possible. More is even better! You can contact Mary at 515-239-5633 or email [mlogsdon@amespubliclibrary.org](mailto:mlogsdon@amespubliclibrary.org)

## Everyone Has a Story to Tell

### Personal Histories: Part 2/3

By Samara Thornock

When starting your personal history, remember where others will turn to learn about you. Census records, maps, and local histories will reveal a lot about the possible experiences you have had, but recording valuable unique information on accessible media is an important consideration.

### Making Sense of the American Civil War



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STATE OF IOWA

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Monday, April 9: 10am-8pm  
Tuesday, April 10: 10am-8pm  
Wednesday, April 11: 10am-6pm  
in front of Ames Public Library (515 Douglas Ave.)

Visit the "History on the Move" traveling exhibit in front of the Library for a multimedia look at the Civil War and Iowa.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:  
**Making Sense of the American Civil War**  
Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War, a reading and discussion series, has been made possible through a grant from the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES and the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION in partnership with the Ames Historical Society, Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, Humanities Iowa, and Story County Genealogical Society.  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES ALA American Library Association  
Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute endorsement of the program content or the views expressed by the participants. If your organization is interested in co-sponsoring a program, please contact Mary Logsdon at 239-5633 or [mlogsdon@amespubliclibrary.org](mailto:mlogsdon@amespubliclibrary.org).

Janet Horvoka of [www.thechartchick.com](http://www.thechartchick.com) suggested a few things to consider in this regard. She has observed that electronic data makes records easier to share, disseminate, copy, restore, replicate, and migrate to new digital formats. However, she reminded conference goers that digital data is susceptible to corruption, physical deterioration, format changes, or deletion.

Publishing hard copies for physical dissemination thus continues to be very important. This task has become even easier with companies such as (but not limited to): [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com), [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com), [www.mypublisher.com](http://www.mypublisher.com), [www.cherishbound.com](http://www.cherishbound.com), [www.heritagemakers.com](http://www.heritagemakers.com). All can be contentedly utilized with a computer, time, and a comfy chair!



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# Annie's Ghost: A Journey into a Family Secret

by Steve Luxenberg. Published by Hyperion, 2009. 401 p. Includes Bibliography, Index, Discussion Guide and Interview with the author.

Reviewed by Marti Rasmussen

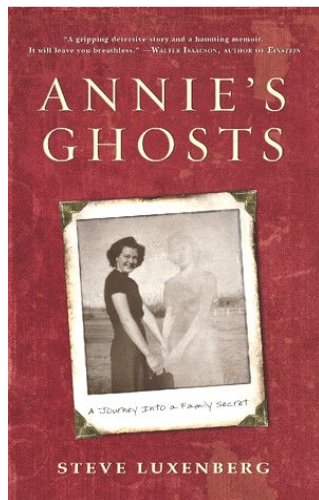


Image courtesy of  
[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

This is one of the most interesting books I read during 2011. It is a memoir, a family history, and an exploration of the author's intention of finding out about Annie, his mother's sister, whose existence he learned about after his mother's death.

So it begins with a mystery, takes us

through the anguish and impact of his discovery that this aunt, that he never knew, was resident of a Michigan mental institution for 31 years. The author brings us into the family, revealing the varying reactions of family members to this information and how the news has created the need in him to learn more about Annie.

As an experienced journalist, Steve Luxenberg was able to pursue medical and other records of his Aunt Annie. His goal was to learn more about and why his mother kept this secret. This quest took him many miles of travel and interviews to find the varying threads of this story. We, his readers, are the recipients of not only his research, but of his investigation and understanding of the mental health facilities and treatments for Annie, as well as his mother's friendships and concerns.

Annie's Ghost is special story for me, and for many other readers because of its insights of the realities our family history research may reveal including the feelings we uncover in ourselves and our families both past and present.



Logo design by  
Karen Pattee David

## Story County Genealogical Society

Send Membership dues to P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
or pay Treasurer, Pat Cain, at a SCGS meeting.  
Make Checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society.

Membership is \_\_\$10 per person OR \_\_ \$15 per family each year  
dues paid after April 1 will be for balance of 2012.

MEMBER OF IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \_\_Yes \_\_No

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P.O. Box 692  
AMES, IA 50010

# Meeting Minutes

March 2012

Submitted by Gwenna Jacobson

The March 2012 Meeting, held February 13th, was called to order by President Mary Lohr at the Ames Public Library. There were 25 members and 7 guests were present. Guests were introduced.

Any news articles or idea for news articles should be emailed to Samara Thornock who is our new Newsletter Editor.

The minutes of the February meeting were amended and approved as amended. The April meeting will be at City Hall and not the March meeting as reported in the minutes. Pat Cain gave the treasurer's report.

Announcements about the upcoming programs at IGS were made. Upcoming classes include Beginning Genealogy, Irish Genealogy Online, and a Research Slumber Party.

Other upcoming events at IGS are:

❖ The IGS Spring Conference, *Picture This!*, will be 14 April 2012 at the West Wing IGS Library, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines and the main speaker will be Eric Basir.

❖ Saturday, 24 March 2012: **Start Indexing - Get Ready for the 1940 Census.**

❖ Saturday, March 31: **Digging for Treasure Online at Public Libraries.**

❖ **Somewhere in Time, IGS Wedding Memories:** a special exhibit will be held during two three-day weekends: May 10 - 12 and May 17 - 19, 2012. A \$5 admission donation will be requested at the door as a fundraiser in support of IGS programs and services.

## OLD BUSINESS

Members discussed about if the membership list would be made available to members. A motion was made by Merlene Whisenand and seconded by Marti Rasmussen that any member can get a copy of the list by contacting Pat Cain and members that do not want their information in the list can opt out by talking to Pat Cain. Pat Cain was asked to bring printed copies of the list to the May meeting because all members would have renewed membership by then.

Marti Rasmussen spoke about the location of the future meetings when the Library is closed for remodeling. She said that she has contacted the churches Collegiate Methodist and Bethesda Lutheran and there is a fee of \$30 for use of Church.

Marti Rasmussen spoke about the 1940 Census Presentation from the February meeting. It was presented again in Webster City to the Hamilton County Heritage Hunters at the Kendall Young Library.

The Webster City group had several projects and all members volunteer to help with some of the projects. They include:

\* Research Requests      \* Gravestone Photos

\* HHS Memorials      \* Memorial at Library  
\* IGS newsletter blurb      \* Pioneer Certificates  
\* Processing Tax Records

Marti thought SCGS should consider putting together teams of people to offer presentations for other groups as our project.

Marti spoke about the upcoming program at the April meeting. It will be about the TV programs *Who do you think you are?* on Fridays on NBC and *Finding Your Roots* starting March 25/26 on PBS and *Generations Project* on Saturdays/Sundays on BYTV. Please try to watch some of these shows before then.

April's Meeting will be in room 135 at the City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

The presentation was by Lorraine Pellack, from the ISU Park's Library, on *Unearthing Genealogical Gems*

In the ISU Library

## Story County Genealogical Society

April 2012 ♡ VOL. 45 ISSUE 4

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor      Samara Thornock  
P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue      May 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, April 23, 2012**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium unless otherwise stated*

**April 9**      Discussion of Who Do You Think You are and Discovering Your Roots  
**Location Change: Room 135 of City Hall**

**May 14**      Using Ancestry.com Library Edition  
**Farwell Brown Auditorium**



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# SCGS NEWS

*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

MAY 2012

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VOL. 45 ISSUE 5

**NEXT PROGRAM: MON., MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 7PM  
FARWELL BROWN AUDITORIUM  
AT AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Learning Ancestry.com Library Edition

By Marti Rasmussen

The Story County Genealogical Society will feature an overview of Ancestry.com - Library Edition at our meeting on Monday, May 14, at 7 pm at the Ames Public Library in Farwell Brown Auditorium. Our speakers will be Ross Petra and Ann Dobbs of the Ames Public Library staff.

This presentation will point out differences between what the Library Edition features and those of our individual editions and explain how to access the Ancestry.com at our Ames Public Library using your Library Card. Ross Petra and Ann Dobbs will demonstrate how to use both basic and advanced searches on Ancestry and point out other ways to locate family history using it. The speakers also plan



*Image use courtesy of Ames Historical Society*

to show us access to the recently released 1940 Census and how to find other databases provided by Ancestry. Bring a friend and introduce them to this interesting and extremely useful database subscription service available with your Library Card at Ames Public Library. This will help anyone using Ancestry searches at home or at the Ames Public Library.

## ArchiveGrid

By Lorraine Pellack

*Head, Science & Technology Department  
ISU Parks Library*

Searching for primary resources? Do you want a database dedicated solely to archival collections? ArchiveGrid is another option to consider when searching for archival collections. ArchiveGrid, a discovery service which connects researchers to primary source materials from around the world, has recently created a freely available database. The ISU Special Collections Department's finding aids and catalog records are now available in ArchiveGrid. In addition to being able to search for archival collections at Iowa State, ArchiveGrid also allows researchers to look for similar resources available at other institutions both here in this country and around the world. ArchiveGrid can be found at: <http://archivegrid.org/web/index.jsp>

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# New SCGS Meeting Location for 2012-13 year

A Message from Mary J. Lohr,  
*President Story County Genealogical Society*

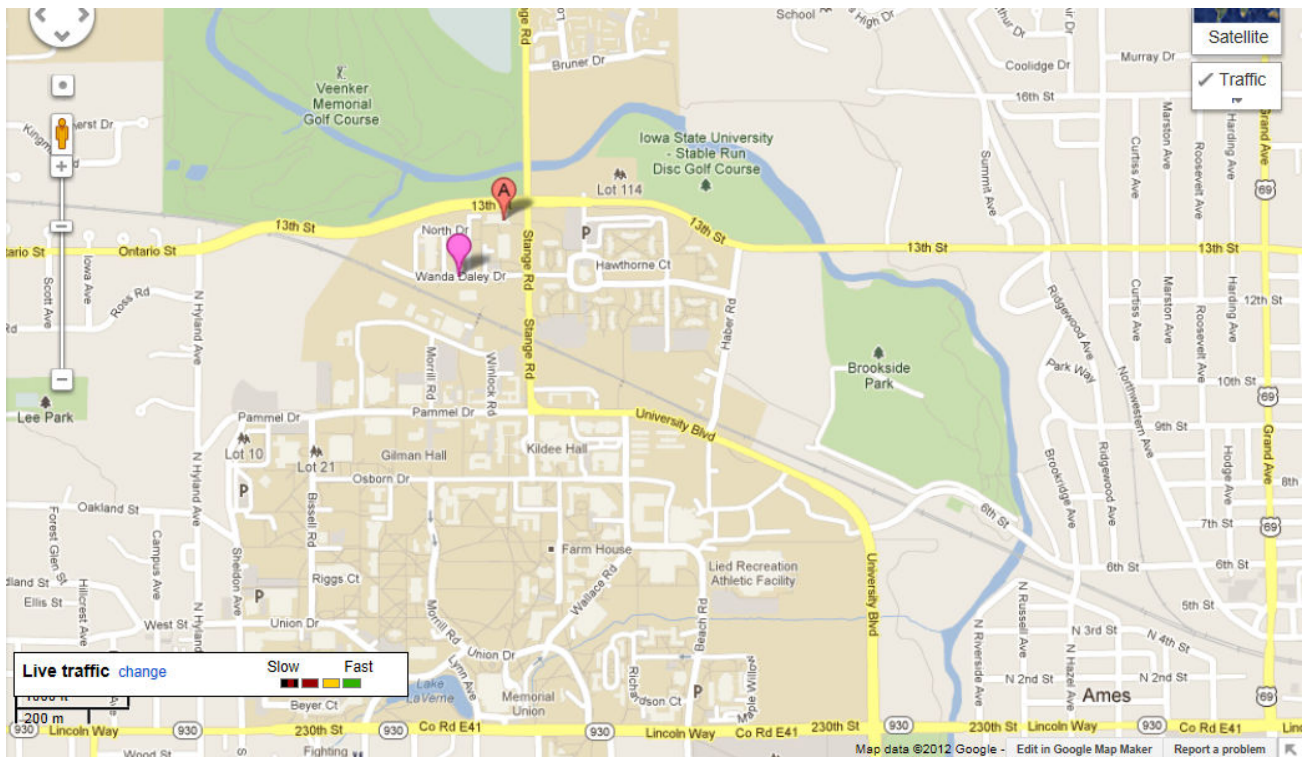
While the Ames Public Library is undergoing renovations and expansion, the Story County Genealogical Society meetings will be in Room 1020 at the Extension 4-H Building on the Iowa State University campus. The building is located on the southwest corner of 13th Street and Stange Road and there is parking nearby.

A word of caution though on the handicapped parking spaces: some are for the general public that have a valid permit, but a few also require an additional ISU permit. So, read the signs carefully. After 5:30 p.m. parking is available in any general staff parking lot except where signs indicated otherwise.

We'll have some maps available at the May meeting to help members find the location.

Meeting at the Extension 4-H Building will provide consistency for the 2012-2013 year (Sept.-Nov., Jan.-May) and avoid the "where are we meeting this month" syndrome.

There is a suggestion to begin our meetings at 6:30 p.m. beginning in September. What are your thoughts? We'll discuss this at the May meeting.



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# 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act coming up!

By Lorraine Pellack

*Head, Science & Technology Department  
ISU Parks Library*

On May 20, 1862, President Lincoln signed into law the [Homestead Act](#), which eventually distributed over 270 million acres of American land to over 1.6 million households. In this same year, on July 1st, President Lincoln also signed the [Pacific Railroad Act](#) authorizing land grants to aid in the construction of a transcontinental railroad and telegraph lines from Nebraska to California.

Passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 caused a land rush in many frontier areas – especially unclaimed lands west of the Missouri River. If your ancestors were in the Midwest in the 1870 census but you could not find them in the same area previously, it should be pretty safe to assume they were part of the land rush. You might want to check the 1860 census for states further east along the known migration routes.

**Did You Know?** While plowing 1 acre of ground, the homesteader walked 10 miles. So to plow the required 10 acres for his homestead, the homesteader had to walk a minimum of 100 miles. (From the Homestead National Monument of America website.)

**Speaking of Railroads...have you seen the Historical Atlas of World Railroads?** It was written by J.N. Westwood and published by Firefly Books in 2009 – This is a book owned by the Parks Library (at ISU). It is not new, but it is cool to see when and where railroads cropped up – worldwide coverage. Immigrants travelled along existing routes, whether by water or roads. The existence of a railroad made travel back and forth between the frontier and more settled areas readily possible and quicker to travel. Some of my ancestors went back east (by train) for a year or two during hard times due to grasshopper plagues or droughts. The only way a researcher might know this is if children were listed in the census as born in a location different from their siblings or if they “disappeared” from the census temporarily. Many websites try to charge researchers for copies of maps rather than showing the maps themselves online. This book shows maps from all over the world and indicates when each of the railroads was in existence. (Not currently owned by Ames Public Library.)



Logo design by  
Karen Pattee David

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Make Checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society.

Membership is \_\_\$10 per person OR \_\_ \$15 per family each year  
dues paid after April 1 will be for balance of 2012.

MEMBER OF IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \_\_Yes \_\_No

Visit SCGS online at [www.storygenes.com](http://www.storygenes.com)

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P.O. Box 692  
AMES, IA 50010



# Everyone Has a Story to Tell

## Personal Histories: Part 3/3

By Samara Thornock

The wise adage, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time," may be mundanely familiar, but its reliability is nonetheless incontestable.

So which end of the personal history do we nibble at first? Consider organizing information you already have available such as photos, journals, tapes, videos, or other records. By doing so, you can then make a list or general outline of major events and memories to use as topics for stories or vignettes at a later time. Be sure to keep a pencil and paper nearby to write down topic sentences or keywords as other memories may be uncovered during your work.

Michael Booth of RootMagic suggests that manageable "bite-size" pieces helps us to overcome some of our biggest obstacles of time and interest management, while allowing our minds to focus more clearly on one experience than the full lifetime.

## Meeting Minutes

April 2012

The April 9, 2012 meeting was held at City Hall and called to order by President Mary Lohr. There was 23 members in attendance.

The Minutes of the March meeting were approved. Pat Cain gave the treasurers report. He also handed out new membership lists to those who wanted them.

Since Lucille was not in attendance there was no library report but Mary said we should turn in any requests to her shortly as an order is being worked on.

Sat. April 14 is the Iowa Genealogical Society Spring Conference.

The Civil War exhibit at the library was discussed. Several had already attended it.

Mary said there would be 3 people attending the Roland Library in the future to help with an outreach program.

Our meetings in the fall will be at the corner of 13th street and Stange road in the 4-H Extension building. More information will be coming in the news letter and on our web sight.

It was decided that we would have a get together at the Parks library on campus on June 18. One o'clock pm until 3pm was suggested.

The meeting was adjourned and Marty and Mary had the program on "Who do you think you are" and Finding your roots. Much discussion was held on these two programs.

## Story County Genealogical Society

May 2012 ☞ VOL. 45 ISSUE 5

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Samara Thornock  
P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue September 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, August 27, 2012**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at the Extension 4-H Youth Building on the north side of ISU campus unless otherwise stated*

**June 18** *Get Together*  
*Location: Parks Library from 1pm-3pm*

**September 10**



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# SCGS NEWS

*"Helping You Connect With Your Heritage"*

SEPTEMBER 2012

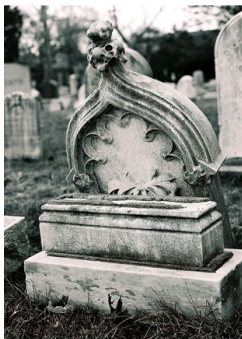
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VOL. 45 ISSUE 6

**NEXT PROGRAM: MON., SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 7PM  
EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH BUILDING ON THE  
NORTH SIDE OF ISU CAMPUS**



*Photo courtesy  
of populationfive.com*

## Cemetery Restoration and Preservation

By Ken and Mary Booth

*Ken and Mary Booth have been the District 8 representatives for IGS for the past 2 years and will likely continue in that role for the next 2 years. They have been members of IGS about 14 years in total. Mary got into genealogy by a love of history. She pulled Ken into genealogy by walking cemeteries, collecting his family history, and wanting to repair his 4th great grandmother's stone that was broken. It was the first stone they repaired. Ken worked for the State of Iowa Insurance department and Mary was a music teacher until we had our family. Then, Mary was a stay at home mom until their boys were both in school when she then substitute taught for 16 years, primarily in the West Des Moines School district.*

Walking the old cemeteries, showed both of us just how much some of them needed tender loving care. Since we have the time, Ken and I work about 3 weeks a year in three cemeteries in Illinois. The cemetery we have most frequented contains 3 and 4 generations of Ken's ancestors. In another, we helped a friend with his family stones. The third just cried out to Ken to help it!

On Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing with SCGS how we try to save and restore cemetery stones and the methods we have used in the process. We will talk about how we find cemetery stones. I wish for graves and people usually find this very interesting. We

will show photos of stones that we have recovered from being buried and show them standing tall again. Also, we have pictures of stones in the process of being restored and those we have already completed. We will talk about the process we use for each stone that we have photos.

## Reminder: New SCGS Meeting Location for 2012-13 year



Starting with the September meeting the SCGS meetings will be in Room 1020 at the Extension 4-H Building on the ISU campus. The building is located on the southwest corner of 13th Street and Stange Road. After 5:30 p.m. parking is available nearby in any general staff parking lot except where signs indicated otherwise. A word of caution on the handicapped parking spaces: some are for the general public that have a valid permit, but a few also require an additional ISU permit. So, read the signs carefully.

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## Norwegian American Immigration English Translation

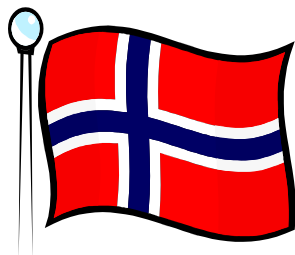
Published by Iowa Publisher  
Deb Nelson Gourley  
by Astri My Astri Publishing  
in Waukon, Iowa

Article Submitted by Marti Rasmussen

Iowa publisher Deb Nelson Gourley has made an important contribution to the genealogists resources by creating an English translation of *Norwegians in America, their History and Record* (translated version of 1907 and 1913 Nordmaendene i Amerika, deres Historie og Rekord, Vol. 1, 2 & 3 written by Martin Ulvestad

An article in the Decorah Newspaper provides information regarding this project by Nelson Gourley and her team at Astri My Astri Publishing located in Waukon, IA. These 100 year old works includes three volumes. In Vol. 1, names of immigrants sorted by state and then broken into 500 counties. Vol. 2 sorted the immigrants by occupation. The original by Ulvestad was compiled from data he collected from distribution of 450,000 circulars, but the rare books were only available in Norwegian.

Nelson Gourley has called this work, "the most comprehensive books on Norwegian immigration to America during the years 1825-1913, that to my knowledge, have ever been published." Astri My Astri, owned by Nelson Gourley, specializes in bilingual English-Norwegian language books and books on Norwegian/immigrant history. This translation was a team effort with 3 individuals working on the project over three years. It is a monumental achievement. To learn more about this translation or order it or other books published by Astri My Astri Publishing, visit on the web <[www.atrimyastri.com](http://www.atrimyastri.com)> or email [gourleydeb@gmail.com](mailto:gourleydeb@gmail.com) or phone 563-568-6229.



Thank you to Lester Carlsborg for bringing this to my attention by sending a link to a story in the Decorah Newspaper

## Know your Sources

By Samara Thornock

An account given by one of the respected matriarchs descended in my great-great grandfathers line was published in the definitive book of said family history sometime in the early 1980s. In a letter, this well-intended woman stated, "They have him traced back to the Mayflower -- the dentist on board. He started in New Engalnd. A plaque in his memory is still at Ipswitch Mass." These bits of information lead the family to an authoritative dead-end for decades.



It was not until a few years ago, with the help of an obscure collection from Connecticut that we were able to make the correct connections and divulge that, though they were likely related to the dentist a few lines back, our family did not in fact settle in America until

15 years after the Mayflower had landed.

It's a familiar story known to many with an interest in genealogy, and with the advent of the web, the problem has the potential to grow exponentially. One speculative pronouncement made available to hungry researchers can quickly be incorporated into a family line and perpetuated for as many descendants and websites as a person has (or more).

So what to do? Know your sources well. Start with what's available, and make the work of verification part of your family history goals. Did your information come from a government issued document, family written record or narration, publication, website address, headstone, or some other valuable resource? Is that source supported by logical time, geographic, or historical context restraints?

Asking these and other critical questions will enrich your genealogical experience and may lead to the breakthrough you've been looking for.



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## Iowa Genealogical Society 2012 Fall Conference

### Soldiers, Sailors and Federal Employees: Discovering Your Ancestor in Military and Federal Records

The following information is included from the IGS website at <http://www.iowagenealogy.org/category/fall-conference-2012/>

The Iowa Genealogical Society's Annual Fall Conference is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, October 12 - 13, 2012**, at the **Johnson Lions Club**, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa. Plan to participate in this year's Conference activities!

This year's guest speaker will be Michael L. Strauss, AG. Michael has been an Accredited Genealogist since 1995. A native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, he has been an avid genealogist for more than thirty-five years. Michael holds a BA in History and is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran. He is a qualified Expert Witness in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Additionally, he is an approved genealogist for

the U.S. Army to locate DNA-qualified family members of MIA's from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Michael is also the President of the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society.

Volunteers are at the heart of a successful conference. Can you lend some assistance to IGS? Help is needed to set up tables and chairs at the Johnston Lions Club on Thursday, October 11 from 1-3 p.m., provide treats for breaks, serve the catered box lunch on Friday and Saturday, clean up and straighten up the Lions Club at the end of the sessions on Friday and Saturday, and transport supplies back to IGS on Saturday at the close of the conference. There are plenty of other opportunities as well! Sign up sheets are available at IGS. Or contact the IGS office: 515-276-0287; [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org).

Visit <http://www.iowagenealogy.org/events/conferences/> to view the options for attendance- register for both days or the single day of your choice. Register early and save-the **Early Bird discount expires on September 15th**, so don't delay. Prefer to register via U.S. mail service? Download and print a Fall Conference Brochure and Registration Form. Mail your registration with payment, or drop it off at the IGS office:

Iowa Genealogical Society, 2012 Fall Conference  
628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924



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Karen Pattee David

### Story County Genealogical Society

Send Membership dues to P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
or pay Treasurer, Pat Cain, at a SCGS meeting.  
Make Checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society.

Membership is \_\_\$10 per person OR \_\_ \$15 per family each year  
dues paid after April 1 will be for balance of 2012.

MEMBER OF IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \_\_Yes \_\_No

Visit SCGS online at [www.storygenes.com](http://www.storygenes.com)

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	
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# Meeting Minutes

May 2012

The May 2012 Meeting, held May 14th, was called to order by President Mary Lohr at the Ames Public Library. There were 28 members and 2 guests were present.

Guests were introduced.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved. Pat Cain gave the treasurer's report.

## OLD BUSINESS

A Follow up discussion was had about the genealogy help session held at the Roland Public Library.

## NEW BUSINESS

An Email came from Lee Ashmore to exchange postcards for research. See Mary Lohr if interested in this Email.

The SCGS meetings will be held at the Extension 4H Youth Building on the ISU campus. It is on the corner of Stange and 13th Street. Turn left (west) onto Daley Drive. Access to the Extension 4-H Youth Building is through the parking lot at the second right turn from Daley Drive. Use the door on the south side that faces west.

## IGS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Somewhere in Time, IGS Wedding Memories: a special exhibit will be held during two three-day weekends: May 10 - 12 and May 17 - 19, 2012. A \$5 admission donation will be requested at the door as a fundraiser in support of IGS programs and services. Mary Lohr is going and offering rides to interested people.

Lives and Times series in June/July on Prohibition

SCGS volunteers at IGS on the 1st Saturday of even months, the next time is Saturday, June 2. The volunteers leave at 9:15 and are there until 5:00. See Mary Lohr for a ride.

May 19th there is a Class on Beginning Genealogy.

May 29th there is a Class on Preparing for Military Records.

Charlotte Peterson brought medals and was looking on suggestions for displaying them.

Marti Rasmussen talked about the upcoming speakers she has lined up for meeting. Mary Booth with speak about Cemetery Restoration and Preservation in September. Jeff Nichols will speak about the Civil War at the town of Pea Ridge where Iowa Soldiers took part in

battle in October. November is the talk and treats meeting. There is no December meeting. No speaker is lined up yet for January.

Marti Rasmussen is planning a workshop at the ISU Parks Library in June where Lorrie Pellack and Special Collections will present what is available at the Parks Library and time will be available for Research. Set currently for June 18th from 1 to 3 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

The presentation was by Ross Petra: Explanation of Ancestry Library Edition

## Story County Genealogical Society

September 2012 ♡ VOL. 45 ISSUE 6

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Samara Thornock  
P.O. Box 692, Ames, IA 50010  
email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue October 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, September 24, 2012**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at the Extension 4-H Youth Building on the north side of ISU campus unless otherwise stated*

**September 10** "Cemetery Restoration and Preservation"  
Speakers: Ken and Mary Booth

**October 8** "Civil War at the town of Pea Ridge"  
Speaker: Jeff Nichols

**November 12** Talk and Treats Meeting



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OCTOBER 2012

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VOL. 45 ISSUE 7

**NEXT PROGRAM: MON., OCT. 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 7PM  
EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH BUILDING ON THE  
NORTH SIDE OF ISU CAMPUS**

## Researching a Southern Community in the Midst of Civil War: Pea Ridge, AR



*"Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas"  
By Kurz and Allison, late 1800s*

Jeff Nichols will be our speaker in October and will focus on the Civil War battle fought 7-8 March 1862 at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Jeff is a native of northwestern Arkansas and moved to Ames in 1999 where he currently works for the USDA at the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of this important battle Jeff was asked by the Pea Ridge Historical Society program coordinator to identify the local Arkansas men who had fought in the Civil War.

We look forward to learning about some of the Iowa soldiers who fought at Pea Ridge and how Jeff used "cluster" genealogy, among other techniques, to learn more about this specific, community, place, and event.

## Iowa Genealogical Society 2012 Fall Conference

**Soldiers, Sailors and Federal Employees:  
Discovering Your Ancestor in Military and  
Federal Records**

The following information is included from the IGS  
website at [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://WWW.IOWAGENEALOGY.ORG)

The Iowa Genealogical Society's Annual Fall Conference is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, October 12 - 13, 2012**, at the **Johnston Lions Club**, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa.

This year's guest speaker will be Michael L. Strauss, AG. Lecture topics will include:

- \* Free Trade and Sailors Rights: Genealogical Research in the War of 1812
- \* That Splendid Little War: Genealogy Research in the Spanish-American War
- \* Researching your Civil War Ancestor: A Comprehensive Study
- \* Roosevelt's Tree Army: Genealogy Resources in the Civilian Conservation Corps
- \* Conducting World War I & II Genealogical Research
- \* Bankruptcy to Equity: Using Federal Court Records
- \* Case Studies in Descendancy Research

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# Search Engine Bonanza

A Message from Mary J. Lohr

*President Story County Genealogical Society*

Google, the Old Standard of Internet search engines, just turned 14. In that time it has become the “go to” place for searching the Internet. But Google is starting to have some company in the field.



Mocavo ([www.mocavo.com](http://www.mocavo.com)), which bills itself as the world's largest genealogy search engine, searches genealogy specific websites such as message boards, Find A Grave, blogs, the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), among others. You will not find these results from Facebook and LinkedIn. The basic search portion is free and worth trying. There is a subscription side that has advanced search features.

LiveRoots ([www.liveroots.com](http://www.liveroots.com)) seeks to offer a combination of locating published family histories and other genealogy material. It works by searching the catalogs of the large commercial companies, small publishers, and independent web sites. The “live” part of the search engine is that some of the results may provide information on how to commission a person to access the information for you.

The GenealogyInTime ([www.genealogyintime.com](http://www.genealogyintime.com)) website offers a Family Tree Search Engine (with 3.8 billion records) and a Genealogy Search Engine (1.9 billion records). Both are powered by Google.



A new player in the digital world is the Million Short ([millionshort.com](http://millionshort.com)) search engine. It claims to eliminate the first million (with an “m”!) top websites, not just the tops web search results. The idea is that it

gets past the usual searches and reaches to the less noticeable, but still useful results. You might think of it as searching in the “dusty corners” of the Internet.

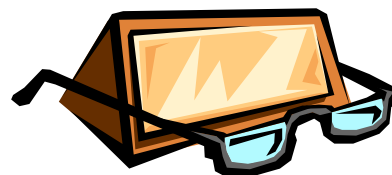
Despite the unusual name, the DuckDuckGo ([duckduckgo.com](http://duckduckgo.com)) search engine claims, “Way more instant answers, Way less spam and clutter, Lots and lots of goodies, Real privacy.” Unlike Google, this site promises anonymous searching that does not track users. Since it does not keep a search history, results are not filtered.

And if you still want to do some searching, of course, there is always Yahoo and Bing, among many others.

Ah, so much Internet, so little time! Maybe these search engines will help in your family history research.

---

## What's in a name?



By Samara Thornock

It's one of the first things people find out about you. It was likely one of the first things your parents thought to give you and your grandparents wanted to know about you. It says a lot about the aspirations, hopes, values, personality and desires your predecessors likely had for you. It's your name.

Naming conventions have varied by geographic and cultural origin as well as generational and societal fashion. Depending upon what factors contributed to the selection of a persons moniker, one may be able to divulge occupation, birthplace, paternity, maternity, title, religion, birth order, or ethnicity of the said ancestor. Clues to the names of other relatives may also be apparent in a single family unit.

(“What's in a name “continued on page 3)



For example, according to the USGenWeb project, English first names of persons born between 1700-1875 were often based upon the grandparents family:

1st son -- father's father  
 2nd son -- mother's father  
 3rd son -- father  
 4th son -- father's eldest brother  
 1st daughter -- mother's mother  
 2nd daughter -- father's mother  
 3rd daughter -- mother  
 4th daughter -- mother's eldest sister

Many surnames originating in England, Ireland, or Scotland such as Baker, Fuller, Carpenter, or Smith divulge occupation. Other surnames originating from Nordic, Welsh, or Spanish ancestors settle surnames such as Johnson, Andersen, or Rodriguez-Sanchez employ patronymics or matronymics where a piece of a fathers or mothers name is utilized in the naming of his or her child.

In the United States, a person is generally referred to familiarly by their first name or unfamiliarly by a title and surname. In any given historical age or culture, that order of written or verbal address changes.

Knowing in what order a title, middle name, surname, and first name is given is key to accurate record keeping and genealogical sleuthing.

Below is a list of great websites used in the writing of this article. Hopefully they may also give you more information on your family's naming conventions:

- \* Principles of naming conventions and how to record them properly:  
[http://wiki.geni.com/index.php/Naming\\_Conventions](http://wiki.geni.com/index.php/Naming_Conventions)
- \* English, Irish, and Scottish naming patterns:  
[http://www.diggingforancestors.com/naming\\_patterns.html](http://www.diggingforancestors.com/naming_patterns.html)
- \* General information on names  
<http://usgenweb.org/research/names.shtml>
- \* Surnames derived from Patronymics, Matronymics, or occupation, as well as finding maiden names:  
<http://www.searchmytree.com/Genealogy%20Naming.php>



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Karen Pattee David

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Membership is \_\_\$10 per person OR \_\_ \$15 per family each year  
 dues paid after April 1 will be for balance of 2012.

MEMBER OF IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \_\_Yes \_\_No

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## For Your Funny Bone

Anecdotes courtesy of  
genealogyinc.com/humor

- ☺ Any family tree produces some lemons, nuts, and bad apples.
- ☺ Hunting season is all year long in genealogy
- ☺ Genealogists diet: "Fiche and Ships topped with tantalizing Sources"!
- ☺ Who's in charge of washing the Family Group Sheets?
- ☺ Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related

## Meeting Minutes

September 2012

The September 2012 Meeting, held September 10th, was called to order by Vice President Marti Rasmussen at the Extension4-H Youth Building on ISU Campus. There were 21 members and 2 guests were present.

Guests were introduced.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Lucille Wharenbrock gave the library report. Anyone wanting a certain book or area let Lucille know.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Mary Ausborn gave a report from the nominating committee. All offices are covered but president and the newsletter editor. A letter from Mary Lohr about the president's position was read by Marti.

A request was made for money for the newsletter. A motion was made by Merlene Whisenand and 2nd by Luanne Endreland to fund the newsletter. It was amended by Gretchen Triplett to be for the amount of \$60. The motion carried.

Marti spoke about upcoming programs. Jeff Nichols will be the speaker about Pea Ridge Community in the Civil War including about Iowa Soldiers. November will be the treats and sharing meeting. Maybe a workshop will be planned for the January Meeting. A civil war program is a possibility and a program about doing interviews from a person doing this for Ames Historical Society are ideas for future programs.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ken and Mary Booth who are the district 8 representatives gave the presentation, entitled *Cemetery Restoration and Preservation*

## Story County Genealogical Society

October 2012 ☞ VOL. 45 ISSUE 7

### OFFICERS

President	Mary Lohr
Vice President	Martha Rasmussen
Secretary	Gwenna Jacobson
Treasurer	Pat Cain
Publicity	Luanne Endreland
Librarian	Lucille Wahrenbrock
Historian	Martha Deyoe

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Samara Thornock  
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email: [samara\\_thornock@hotmail.com](mailto:samara_thornock@hotmail.com)

Next issue November 2012  
Deadline for Articles/Announcements  
**Monday, October 22, 2012**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Meetings are scheduled for 7pm at the Extension 4-H Youth Building on the north side of ISU campus unless otherwise stated*

**October 8** "Civil War at the town of Pea Ridge"  
Speaker: Jeff Nichols

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